Rural Development 1400 Independence Ave. Washington, DC 20250 www.usda.gov/rus/telecom

Senator Sherrod Brown Economic Recovery Funding Workshops USDA Rural Development Programs

Presenter:

Ron Mellon

General Field Representative

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Federal Lobbyist Notification

In order to comply with President Obama's March 20 memorandum (which seeks to ensure public transparency and accountability), we cannot consider oral statements or questions today from registered lobbyists regarding particular projects, funding applications, or applicants for funding under the Recovery Act.

Registered lobbyists may provide their views on funding matters in written form to the Commission. During today's discussion, registered lobbyists may also make any comments or pose any questions regarding general Recovery Act policy matters, but we need you to identify yourself as a registered lobbyist first (and who you represent) so the Commission can comply with reporting requirements in the memorandum.

Ms. Beth Huhn, Acting State Director 200 North High Street Room 507 Columbus, Ohio 43215

USDA Rural Development

Programs Administered by the State USDA Office in Columbus, Ohio

Mr. David Douglas
Community Programs
Director

Mr. Gerald Arnott Housing Programs Director

Mr. James Cogan
Business & Cooperative
Programs Director

(614) 255-2500

Rural Business and Cooperative Programs

- Business loans/Renewable energy/Grant programs
- Rural Housing Programs
 - Home ownership/rental options
- Community Programs
 - Includes Water/Waste Projects
 - Community Facility Projects



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USDA Rural Development - Ohio

Rural Business & Cooperative Programs

Rural Housing Programs

Community Programs

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Director

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- Economic Stimulus funds will be administered under the existing rules for these programs.
- Staff in the State Office and in the four Ohio Area Offices will assist with inquiries and applications.
 - Area Offices are in Findlay, Hillsboro, Massillon and Marietta
- Written program materials are available at the information desk.



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Rural Development Utilities Programs

Telecom Infrastructure – Broadband Services

Distance Learning – Telemedicine

Economic Stimulus

General Field Representative

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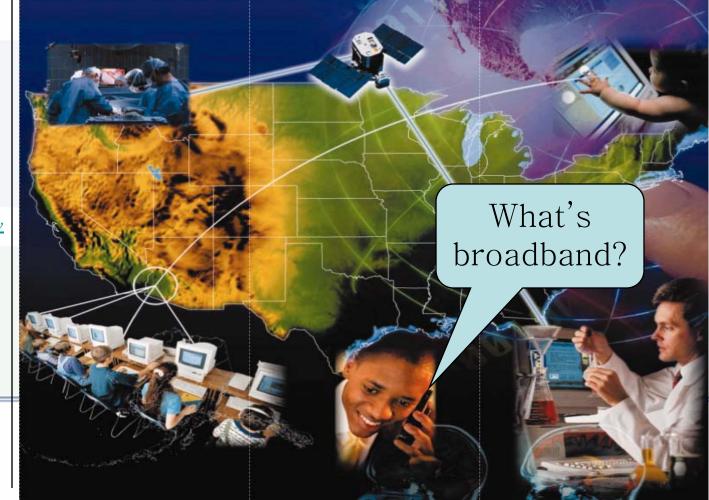
ronald.mellon@wdc.usda.gov

Serving:

Michigan

Ohio

Pennsylvania





Telecommunications Programs

• <u>Infrastructure Loan Program</u>: Loans to local telephone companies for telecommunications service improvements in rural communities.



- Broadband Access Loan Program and Community Connect Grant Program: Loans and grants to service providers who offer broadband (high-speed Internet) services in eligible rural communities.
- <u>Distance Learning/Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program</u>: Loans and grants to purchase equipment to facilitate the electronic delivery of educational or medical services to rural schools and rural medical facilities.



The Community Connect Grant Program

Program Requirements

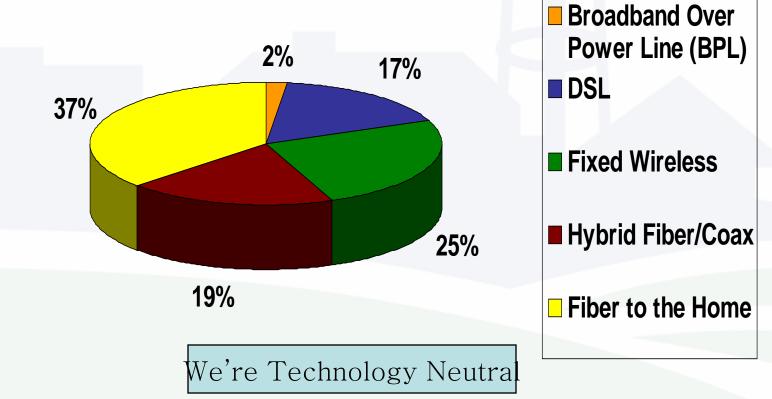
A nationally competitive grant program to provide retail broadband service to one unserved community.

- Priority is given to the most rural and economically challenged communities (20,000 population or less).
- Min grant \$50,000, Max grant \$1,000,000
- 15% required matching contribution
- The 2009 Grant Program will be announced



The Broadband Loan Program

Types of Technologies Funded





- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides \$2.5 billion in budget authority to our agency for broadband grants and loans.
- That budget authority could enable nearly \$2.5 billion in grants or over \$20 billion in loans for broadband deployment to rural areas.



• To implement these programs, Rules for administration of the programs must be established.

• We are now seeking public comment on these Rules. Interested parties have until April 13 to provide suggestions.



Your Comments Are Important and your voice will be heard.

For Example:

- "Broadband" is not well defined in the Act
- "Rural" is not well defined in the Act
- Your particular need may not be specifically addressed in the Act.



- The USDA, the Department of Commerce (NTIA) and the FCC are collaborating to obtain public comment on ARRA broadband funding programs.
- Comments can be submitted through the NTIA website at http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/form.cfm.
- Comments made to date can be viewed at http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comments.cfm.



The legislative objectives for the ARRA are:

- Preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery
- Assist those most impacted by the recession
- Provide investments that will increase economic efficiency
- Provide investments that will have long term benefit
- and services.

 Stabilize State and Local Government budgets

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For USDA broadband funding, the ARRA requires that at least 75% of the area to be served by a (broadband) project receiving funds from these grants or loans shall be in a rural area without sufficient access to high speed broadband service to facilitate rural economic development, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.



For USDA funding, the ARRA specifies that <u>priority be given to projects that</u>:

- Deliver a <u>choice</u> of more than one broadband service provider to end users.
- Serve the highest percentage of <u>unserved</u> rural residents
- Demonstrate that all project elements are fully funded.
- Demonstrate that the project can be <u>fully completed</u> with the funds provided.
- Can commence promptly following approval.



Information regarding USDA Broadband Economic Stimulus Program Rules and Application Guides, when finalized, will be found at:

http://www.recovery.gov

And

http://www/usda.gov/rus/telecom



Or Just Contact Your USDA Telecom General Field Representative

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Thank You

Additional Contact Information is available at: http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/staff/index_st aff.htm

